



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

May 19, 2004

Planning, Programs, and
Project Management Division

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

The Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has concluded the public review of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) entitled Illinois Waterway, Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Lockport Pool Rehabilitation, Evaluation Report, Lockport, Illinois, dated March 2004. Letters of comment were received from the US FWS, US EPA and IL DNR. The letters from those agencies did not indicate any objection to the proposed project. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed by the District Engineer on May 19, 2004. It will be kept on file at the Rock Island District office.

The EA and Statement of Findings (SOF) regarding the rehabilitation of Lockport Pool can be viewed on the Corps home page at: <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil> for the next 30 days from the date of this letter. Click on **Products** and then look under **Operations and Maintenance**. If you wish to receive a hard copy of the SOF, please call or write to the Corps to request a printed document.

If you have any comments or questions regarding this project, you may contact Mr. Randy Kraciun by telephoning 309/794-5174, or by writing to our address above, ATTN: Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division (Randy Kraciun).

Sincerely,

Ma A. Kraciun
for

Kenneth A. Barr
Chief, Economic and Environmental
Analysis Branch

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ILLINOIS WATERWAY CHICAGO SANITARY AND SHIP CANAL LOCKPORT POOL REHABILITATION EVALUATION REPORT LOCKPORT, ILLINOIS

STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

I. Project Description.

A. This statement concerns proposed maintenance by the Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (CEMVR) of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (CSSC) near Lockport Lock on the Illinois Waterway at Lockport, Illinois.

B. An Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the impacts of the proposed project has been prepared and circulated for 30-day public review. A Clean Water Act, Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation was not required because the project is covered under Nationwide Permit (NWP), Items 3 and 33. Illinois has not authorized discharges covered by those Nationwide Permit Items, so, when the project has been authorized and funds are available for P&S, the project engineer will need to submit a permit application to the State of Illinois for project review and approval so that Section 401 water quality certification may be granted prior to project construction.

Verification that items 3 & 33 of the NW permits are still in effect prior to construction will be required.

II. Public interest Review.

The EA for this project was issued on 22 March 2004, and the review period ended 26 April 2004. The EA was sent to post offices; appropriate city, county, State, and Federal agencies; and other interested parties. It was also posted on the District web page. The distribution list for the EA can be found in Appendix B of the EA.

III. Public Review Comments.

The following is a list of the comments received during the public review period. They appear in the order in which they were received and each is followed by our (CEMVR) response where appropriate.

a. The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** Region 5, Chicago, Illinois, responded by letter dated April 21, 2004. They found the document adequately described the project, environmental setting, potential impacts and measures taken to avoid adverse impacts. They determined that our project would not have significant adverse environmental impacts.

b. The **Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** responded by letter dated April 26, 2004. They stated that subject to the restrictions that work would be performed within the boundaries of the CSSC structure and not go beyond the toe of the canal embankment as stated in the EA, they support our Finding of No Significant Impact.

c. The **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)**, Chicago Ecological Services Field Office, responded by letter dated May 10, 2004. They stated that their response to our scoping letter requested that the EA address certain issues and that those issues were addressed in the EA. They have no objections to the project as proposed and concur with our Finding of No Significant Impact.

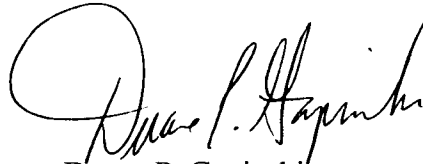
IV. Summary of Environmental Impact Review.

An EA has been prepared for this project. This review has not identified any potentially significant adverse effects resulting from the implementing of the project as proposed. Thus, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was prepared and is included in the EA.

V. Summary of Findings.

I find that implementation of the project as proposed and under the conditions set forth, and as prescribed by regulations published in 33 CFR Part 230 (Appendix B), 33 CFR Parts 320 to 340, 40 CFR Part 230 (if applicable), and 33 CFR Part 250 (Implementation of Executive Order 11988, Flood Plain Management), is in the public interest.

19 May 2004
Date


Duane P. Gapinski
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ILLINOIS WATERWAY CHICAGO SANITARY AND SHIP CANAL

LOCKPORT POOL REHABILITATION EVALUATION REPORT LOCKPORT, ILLINOIS

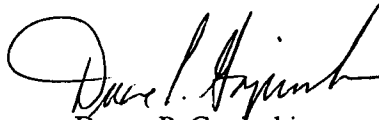
I have reviewed the information provided by this Environmental Assessment, along with data obtained from State and Federal agencies having jurisdiction by law or special expertise, and from the interested public. I find that the work proposed for Lockport Pool of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, to rehabilitate the facility to original design specifications and criteria as proposed in the Environmental Assessment, would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, it is my determination that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This determination will be reevaluated if warranted by later developments.

Alternatives considered along with the preferred action: No Federal action.

Factors considered in making a determination that an Environmental Impact Statement was not required were as follows:

- a. No long-term adverse impacts to natural or cultural resources are anticipated. No endangered species, either State or Federal, would be adversely affected by the project.
- b. No significant expansion in tow traffic or the navigation capacity of the 9-foot channel on the Illinois Waterway would result from the proposed activity.
- c. Land use after the project would remain unaltered, and no economic impacts to the project area are anticipated.
- d. There is no other practicable alternative to the proposed construction activities in the floodplain.

19 May 2004
Date


Duane P. Gapinski
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

APR 21 2004

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:
B-19J

Kenneth A. Barr, Chief
Economic and Environmental Analysis Branch
Rock Island District - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Clock Tower Building P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204

Re: Environmental Assessment - Illinois Waterway, Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Lockport
Pool Rehabilitation Evaluation Report, Lockport, Illinois, March 2004

Dear Mr. Barr:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this document. Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the U.S. EPA reviews and comments on major federal actions. Therefore, we have reviewed the Environmental Assessment for the Lockport Pool Rehabilitation. We find that it adequately describes the proposed project, the environmental setting of the project, the potential environmental impacts of the project, and the measures being taken to avoid and mitigate adverse environmental impacts.

We see that the Corps has consulted with the Illinois Historic Preservation Officer regarding the historic features associated with the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, and in particular, the structures associated with the lock and dam at Lockport. There has also been consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Based upon the Environmental Assessment, we have determined that the project will not have significant adverse environmental impacts. Please advise us if there are any changes to the project which might have environmental impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Westlake".

Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief
Environmental Planning and Evaluation Branch



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way • Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

Joel Brunsvold, Director

April 26, 2004

Mr. Kenneth A. Barr
Chief, Economic and Environmental Analysis Branch
Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers
Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Dear Mr. Barr:

This responds to your letter of March 22, 2004 transmitting an Environmental Assessment and draft Finding of No Significant Impact entitled Illinois Waterway, Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Lockport Pool Rehabilitation, Evaluation Report, Lockport, Illinois. The project area extends from river miles 290 to 321.7 in Cook, Will and DuPage counties, Illinois. The currently proposed activities, located at the downstream end of the CSSC from miles 291 to 294, include work at the powerhouse at Lockport Dam, the controlling works upstream of the dam, the approach dike along the right bank and the gravity walls on the left bank.

As was noted in the Department's letter of January 7, 2003 (EA-A-15), the Illinois Natural Heritage Database contains records of several natural areas and numerous state threatened/endangered species in close proximity to the CSSC. However, we do not anticipate that the currently proposed activities will result in adverse impacts to these resources. Further, the Environmental Assessment indicates that while future work may be required upstream of the currently proposed activities as time and funding allow, all such work "would be performed within the boundaries of the CSSC and not go beyond the outer tow (sic) of either embankment."

Subject to the restrictions cited above, the Department believes the proposed activities are unlikely to result in any appreciable adverse effects on fish, wildlife or heritage resources. Accordingly, we support the Finding of No Significant Impact.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Schanzle
Permit Program Manager
Office of Realty and Environmental Planning

RWS:rs

cc: IDNR/OWR (Kennedy), IEPA (Yurdin), USFWS (Rogner), USEPA (Fenedick)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Chicago Ecological Services Field Office
1250 South Grove Avenue, Suite 103
Barrington, Illinois 60010
Phone: (847) 381-2253 Fax: (847) 381-2285

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/AES-CIFO/4-1182

May 10, 2004

Mr. Kenneth Barr, Chief
Economic and Environmental Analysis Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District
Clock Tower Building
P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Attention: Randy Kraciun

Dear Mr. Barr:

This responds to your Environmental Assessment (EA) dated March 2004 seeking comments on the proposed work in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (CSSC) and the Lockport Pool Rehabilitation Evaluation Report (RER). The EA notes that the current work proposed in the RER would only occur in Lockport Pool between River Miles (RM) 291.1 to 294.1, but that it is possible future work could be performed along other reaches of the CSSC.

We requested that the EA address certain issues in our response to your scoping letter dated January 16, 2003. Our concerns were addressed in the EA and we believe that the proposed work would not adversely affect fish and wildlife resources. Therefore, we have no objections to the project as proposed and concur with your Finding of No Significant Impact.

This letter provides comment under the authority of, and in accordance with, the provisions of National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (83 Stat. 852 as amended P.L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Mr. Kenneth Barr/ Randy Kraciun

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If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Shawn Cirton at 847/381-2253, ext. 236.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karl D. Rogner".

John D. Rogner

Field Supervisor

cc: IDNR, Schanzle

A handwritten word "Acting" in black ink, with a large, stylized "S" written over it.